

SITES FOR THE LIBERTY.

There are good points in the suggestion made by an evening contemporary that the "Liberty Enlightening the World," the foundations for which are already complete on Bedloe's Island, should be erected at the Battery. It is certain that the Battery is a better place for sightseers to congregate than the little island of the Upper Bay. It is also probable that a change of venue from Bedloe's to Battery would enlist in the poverty-stricken cause of the Fund many who at present are, as the adder, deaf to him who charms for contributions. Perhaps, in the interim that design for the pedestal, which is now far from an artistic work, would be altered to something worthier of the unique statue it is to uphold.

But there is another side to the matter. It may be just as well not to bunch all the sights of New-York into one small area, like the lower point of the island, or like Central Park. It may be better to have the statue where it is not so very easy to reach, where one must journey to it by a ferry; for, having made the trip, perhaps the visitors are likely to value the wonderful view the more. Trinity steeple has a great view, but those to whom it is most handy are the surest to have never visited it. The chief drawback to a change is the artistic effect. It will doubtless be conceded that we ought first of all to consider how we can best show and set off so magnificent a gift as this. That is the least we can do, in order to repay the sculptor for his work of art and the French nation for the courtesy. Now, an insuperable objection to the Battery is its comparatively small size. Even if there is pluck and public spirit enough to force the elevated railroad off the Battery and make the immigrants quit Castle Garden, the Battery will always be so small that we cannot afford the space necessary for the foundations and the approaches to such a statue. Again, the statue and its pedestal form so colossal a mass that they will make all the great buildings in the neighborhood ridiculous. On the other hand, the present site has been chosen with excellent judgment, and by M. BARTHOLDI himself, if memory is exact. The water of the bay forms an admirable setting; then comes the little island for a first terrace; then the earthworks of the old fort for a second; then the platform, already built, on which the pedestal proper is to stand. From the Narrows the effect of the statue will be incomparably finer if on Bedloe's Island than if on the Battery. It will balance against the long gentle arch of the Brooklyn Bridge, leaving the confused heap of tall buildings beyond the Battery for the centre of the picture. It can be seen from many more points, and seen to advantage.